

Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, November 2011

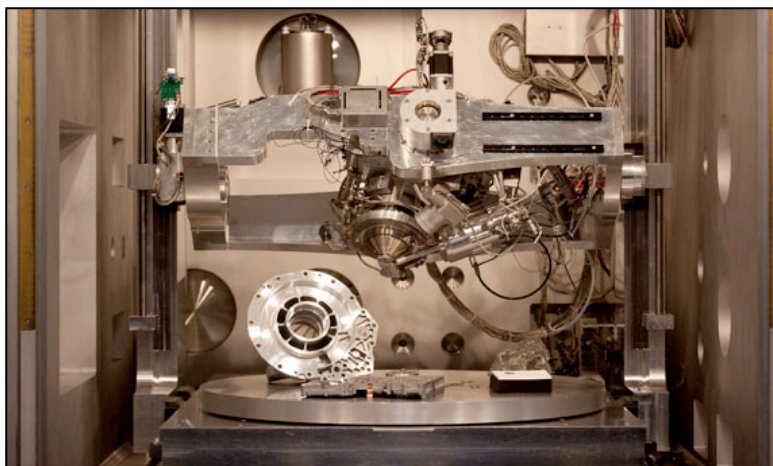
For more WKU news, visit <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/> or [www.wku.edu](http://www.wku.edu).

### WKU celebrates NOVA Center opening with ribbon cutting

The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening of the WKU NOVA Center featuring the Large Chamber Scanning Electron Microscope (LC-SEM). The Nondestructive Analysis (NOVA) Center, in the Center for Research and Development, positions WKU as a leader in nondestructive analysis testing.

The acquisition of the LC-SEM has positioned WKU as the only university in North America with this type of instrument. U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie thanked those at WKU, in the community and in the state and federal governments who had the vision to make the NOVA Center and the Center for Research and Development a reality and provide opportunities for world class research in Bowling Green.

The LC-SEM performs scientific, microscopic analysis of extremely large samples, allowing for investigation of components without destroying them. Maximum sample size is 40 inches diameter by 40 inches tall, with a weight limit of 650 pounds. This allows it to easily hold a V-6 engine block. The LC-SEM has a magnification power of 100,000 times, which is 100 times that of a standard light microscope. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/10/19/photos-nova/>



*Dr. Stolger*

### WKU astronomer played role in Nobel-winning research

WKU astronomer Louis-Gregory Strolger had a hand in the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics. Three of his colleagues — Saul Perlmutter of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of California at Berkeley; Brian Schmidt of the Australian National University; and Adam Riess of The Johns Hopkins University and the Space Telescope Science Institute — won the award for their discovery that the expansion of the universe is accelerating.

The astronomers made their discovery in 1998 and are continuing research into the role dark energy plays in cosmic expansion. Dr. Strolger joined the research as a graduate student and worked with Riess at the Space Telescope Science Institute. Since coming to WKU in 2005, Dr. Strolger and his students have played a significant role in measuring and quantifying data in the study of dark energy and supernovae.

The astronomers knew early on that dark energy, one of the biggest mysteries in physics, was a big deal, Dr. Strolger said, “but it sort of caught fire” as more scientists became interested in the research.

Even though his name isn’t on the award, Dr. Strolger takes a great sense of pride in the Nobel-winning research. “It’s the quintessential award and a reaffirmation that everything you’ve done up to this point is good. It’s just amazing to have that sort of recognition. How many people can say they’ve worked with three Nobel Prize-winning scientists?” For more, see <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/10/04/strolger-nobel/>

### **Dr. Julia Link Roberts receives two statewide awards**

Dr. Julia Link Roberts, Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies and executive director of The Center for Gifted Studies and the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky at WKU, has received two statewide honors: the Acorn Award for teaching excellence and the William T. Nallia Award from the Kentucky Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Roberts is president-elect of The Association for the Gifted, a member of the Executive Committee of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children and co-chair of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee of the National Association for Gifted Children. She is also a member of the board of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education and the Kentucky Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education. See

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/23/roberts-acorn/> or <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/10/17/kasa-roberts/>.



*Dr. Roberts*

### **12 Gatton Academy seniors recognized as National Merit Semifinalists**

One quarter of Gatton Academy seniors have been recognized as semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program, an honor that potentially opens the door to college scholarship opportunities. In all, 12 members of the Class of 2012 will go on to the next round of the competition. Since the Gatton Academy’s inception in 2007, 45 students have been named as National Semifinalists. See

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/23/gatton-semifinalists/>

### **6 students receive SMARRT scholarships from Noyce Program**

Six WKU students have received \$10,000 Science and Math Alliance for Recruitment and Retention of Teachers (SMARRT) Scholarships for the 2011-12 school year funded through the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

The WKU Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program aims to prepare science and mathematics majors who are committed to teaching high school in a high needs district in the region. These students will receive \$10,000 scholarships for the last two years of the SKyTeach Program, the teacher education program at WKU. SKyTeach is funded by the National Math and Science Initiative and models the UTeach program at the University of Texas at Austin. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/22/noyce-2011/>

### **Perdue supports WKU-Owensboro Food Processing and Technology program**

A \$50,000 gift from Perdue, through the Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, will support the Food Processing and Technology program at WKU’s Owensboro Campus. The gift will allow WKU-Owensboro to purchase two important pieces of equipment to supplement the laboratory for the Food Processing and Technology program, part of WKU’s Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

The program at WKU-O was established in 2008 in response to the needs of the food processing industry in western Kentucky and the state. It is the only program of its type in Kentucky. A bachelor’s degree in Food Processing and Technology prepares graduates for technical and managerial positions within the food processing industry. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/13/perdue-wkuo/>

### **WKU’s Terry Wilson among first recipients of GREEN Educator Award**

Dr. Terry Wilson, director of WKU’s Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability, has been recognized as one of the first five recipients of the Chevrolet GREEN Educator Award. The Chevrolet GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) Educator Award, presented by Earth Force and the General Motors Foundation, recognizes teachers, college professors and volunteers who have taken an initiative to integrate environmental education into their schools and community programs. Dr. Wilson, who has been at WKU for 22 years, has devoted the majority of his career to teacher and leadership training in environmental education. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/wilson-gmaward/>